

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were previously pending in the application and were subject to final rejection. By this Amendment, claims 1-33 are amended and claims 34-36 are cancelled. A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-33 as anticipated by *Fries et al.* (*Fries*) U.S. Patent No. 6,460,029. Claim 1 specifies a method for searching a plurality of machine-readable information sources, said method comprising the steps of: mapping a search string to a plurality of search terms, wherein each said search term is a preferred term for searching at least one of said plurality of machine-readable information sources; indicating which of said plurality of machine-readable information sources each of said search terms is a preferred term for; and searching at least one of said indicated machine-readable information sources using respective preferred search terms.

Particularly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that *each of the search terms is a preferred term for searching at least one the plurality of machine-readable information sources*. Support for this amendment is provided, at least, in the passage from page 8, line 30 – page 9, line 6 of the present specification (WO 2005/096174). Furthermore, independent claim 1 includes the step of *indicating machine-readable information sources each of the search terms is a preferred term for*. Still further, independent claim 1 includes the step of *searching the indicated machine-readable information sources using respective preferred search terms*.

An anticipation rejection requires that a single prior art reference disclose each and every element of the claim, arranged as in the claim. *Fries* does not anticipate claim 1.

Claim 1 (as amended) recites that a search string is mapped to a plurality of search terms, wherein each search term is *a preferred term for searching at least one of a plurality of machine-readable information sources*. The passage cited by the Examiner in *Fries* (column 2, lines 10-17) relates to generating a logical search query from a free text query retrieved from a user. In particular, the constructed logical search query includes at least one logical operator that describes the relationship between two input terms in the user's free text query. Applicant notes that the "plurality of search terms" in *Fries* comprise input terms in a user's free text query. That is, *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest that the "plurality of search terms" are preferred terms for searching at least one of a plurality of machine-readable information sources. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Fries*. Nor is claim 1 obvious over *Fries*.

Further, claim 1 (as amended) recites *indicating machine-readable information sources each of the search terms is a preferred term for*. As stated by the Examiner, the passage at column 11, lines 1-12 in *Fries* relates to related term matching. However, Applicant notes that the examples provided in *Fries* match terms to other terms (e.g., "+food" for terms related to food"). *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest that the "plurality of search terms" are preferred terms for searching at least one of a plurality of machine-readable information sources. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Further, claim 1 (as amended) recites *searching indicated machine-readable information sources using respective preferred search terms*. The passage cited by the Examiner at column 11, lines 41-48 of *Fries* relates to identifying possible search topics using keywords. However, *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest searching indicated

machine-readable information sources using respective preferred search terms.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Claim 2, as amended, depends on claim 1 and further recites *displaying to a user, which of the plurality of machine-readable information sources each of the search terms is a preferred term for*. Applicant submits that *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest displaying particular machine-readable information sources, let alone machine-readable information sources each of the search terms is a preferred term for. Accordingly, claim 2 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Claim 3, as amended, depends on claim 2 and further recites *displaying to a user, a reference to at least one vocabulary of terms each of the search terms is included in*. This feature is illustrated in Fig. 10 of the present application and is described in the passage (with reference to Fig. 10) from page 8, line 30 to page 9, line 6 of the specification: “*As may be seen from Fig. 10, the term “Intestinal Obstruction” comprises a preferred term for UMLS, Dxplain term and MeSH®. Similarly, the term “ileus” comprises a preferred term for MeSH® and Dxplain, the term “Unspecified intestinal obstruction” comprises a preferred term for ICD9, the term “INTESTINE, OBSTRUCTION” comprises a preferred term for Dxplain and EMTREE term, and the terms “ileus of bowel” and “ileus of intestine” comprise preferred terms for UMLS.*”

In contrast, the passage cited by the Examiner at column 15, lines 21-34 of *Fries* relates to a list of indexed terms organised under topics. The list is said to include terms that have recently entered public discourse ... (and) allows possible search goals to be identified based on search terms that are new to the public vocabulary. Applicant submits that this teaching in *Fries* is substantially different compared to claim 3 of the present

application. According to claim 3, a reference to at least one vocabulary is displayed to the user. According to the specification of the present application, at page 8, lines 12-17: “*The information source/s that the search terms relate to is/are indicated to provide reassurance to a user that an appropriate mapping to search terms relating to desired vocabularies or information sources is performed or available. The information source/s that the search terms relate to may be indicated by displaying references to one or more vocabularies related to each search term and/or one or more information sources related to each search term, or both*”. Applicant submits that *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest the feature of displaying at least one reference to at least one vocabulary of terms each search term is included in. Accordingly, claim 3 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Claim 4, as amended, depends on claim 2 and further recites that *the user is enabled to select and de-select search terms with which the searching step is performed*. The user is thus able to select and de-select search terms based on the knowledge of which machine-readable information sources those terms are preferred terms for. The passage cited by the Examiner at column 5, lines 30-43 of *Fries* relates to a “web companion” that provides a user with searching options such as possible search goals. However, *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest a user being able to select and de-select specific (preferred) search terms with which the search will be performed. Accordingly, claim 4 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Claim 7, as amended, depends on claim 1 and further recites that each of the plurality of search terms is selected from a vocabulary of search terms that are preferred terms for searching at least one of the plurality of machine-readable information sources. In contrast, the passage cited by the Examiner at column 15, lines 21-34 of *Fries* relates

to a list of indexed terms organised under topics. The list is said to include terms that have recently entered public discourse ... (and) allows possible search goals to be identified based on search terms that are new to the public vocabulary. Applicant submits that the vocabulary referred to at column 15, lines 21-34 of *Fries* is substantially different compared to the vocabulary of preferred terms in claim 7 of the present application. More specifically, *Fries* fails to teach or even suggest that the search terms are selected from a vocabulary of terms that are preferred terms for searching at least one of the machine-readable information sources. Accordingly, claim 7 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Claim 8, as amended, depends on claim 1 and further recites that each of the search terms is selected from a meta-vocabulary that comprises a list of terms included in a plurality of vocabularies of search terms that are preferred terms for searching respective ones of said plurality of machine-readable information sources. For at least the reasons advanced above in relation to claim 7, claim 8 is not anticipated by *Fries*. Furthermore, Applicant submits that *Fries* fails to disclose or even suggest a meta-vocabulary comprising terms from other vocabularies that are preferred terms for searching respective ones of a plurality of machine-readable information sources. Accordingly, claim 8 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Claim 10 depends on claim 1 and has been amended to recite *searching a further machine-readable information source using one or more preferred search terms for searching the further machine-readable information source. The preferred search terms comprise search terms resulting from the mapping step in claim 1 and the further machine-readable information source is searched without performing a further mapping step.* Support for this amendment is provided by the passage on page 8, lines 17-20 of the

specification and Figs. 12 and 13 and the related passage in the present specification from page 9, line 28 to page 10, line 16.

In contrast, and as stated by the Examiner, *Fries* simply teaches storing search queries for later display to a user (see column 2, lines 3-9). Applicant submits that *Fries* fails to teach searching a further machine-readable information source using a preferred search term without performing a further mapping step (i.e., re-mapping). Accordingly, claim 10 is not anticipated by *Fries*.

Furthermore, claims 2-8 and 10-11 are not anticipated by *Fries* at least on account of their dependency on independent claim 1.

Claims 1-11, discussed above, specify a method for searching a plurality of machine-readable information sources. Claims 12-22 specify an apparatus for searching a plurality of machine-readable information sources. Claims 23-33 specify a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having a computer program recorded thereon for searching a plurality of machine-readable information sources. The action does not specifically discuss *Fries* with respect to claims 12-33, except making reference to correspondence with method claims 1-11. Applicant submits that claims 12-33 are not anticipated by or obvious over *Fries* for substantially the same reasons discussed above relative to claims 1-11.

For the above reasons, claims 1-33 are not anticipated. Likewise, these claims are not obvious over *Fries*. Therefore, the rejection is improper and ought be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that claims 9, 20 and 31 were formally rejected as anticipated by *Fries*. This rejection is traversed above. Moreover, applicant traverses the rejection of

claims 9, 20 and 31 as obvious over *Fries* and in view of *Turtle et al. (Turtle)* U.S. Patent No. 5,418,948.

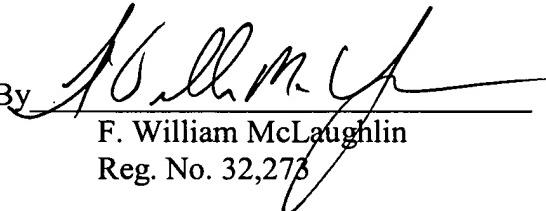
Claims 9, 20 and 31 depend from claims 1, 12 and 23. The deficiencies with respect to *Fries* and the independent claims is noted above. *Turtle* does not disclose the deficiencies noted with respect to Fries. Instead, *Turtle* is cited for teaching use of a medical database for searching. Therefore, no combination of the references would result in the invention.

For the above reasons, claims 9, 20 and 31 are believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance and passage to issue are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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